

Prof. Macoun listed the eastern Robin in this region, but all of our birds were *propinqua*.

## ERRATUM.

In 'The Auk,' Vol. XXIV, plate xviii, fig. 1, for "Nests of Western Grebe," read "Nests of California Grebe."

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RED-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT OF ALASKA.

BY S. BUTURLIN.

IN Part IV, p. 15, of the monumental work of Dr. R. Ridgway, 'The Birds of North and Middle America,' the Alaskan specimens of the Red-spotted Bluethroat are mentioned under the name "*Cyanosylvia succica* (Linnaeus)."

Though having seen no specimens procured in Alaska I do not hesitate to state, that Alaskan specimens do not belong to the typical form, *Cyanecula* (or *Cyanosylvia*) *succica succica* (L.), so common in summer in Scandinavia and northern Europe generally, but are in fact identical with the East Siberian form, named by me<sup>1</sup> *C. succica robusta* (in Russian in 'Psovaia i Rusheinaia Okhota,' i. e., 'Hunting and Shooting,' 1907, No. 6, published 13 March, p. 87; in German in 'Ornith. Monatsb.,' Maiheft, 1907, p. 79).

First of all, the dimensions given by Dr. Ridgway for Alaskan specimens (*l. c.*, p. 16) are too large for *C. succica* (L.) typ. but quite agree with those of *C. succica robusta*, as will be seen from dimensions given below for different forms of this species. Secondly, it must be kept in mind, that Bluethroats are not met with migrating or wintering anywhere in America south of Alaska; therefore it is to be presumed, that birds summering in Alaska migrate in autumn westward to the mainland of Asia, and pass the winter there; but all Bluethroats of Eastern Asia belong to the form *robusta*.

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<sup>1</sup> Evidently *after* the fourth part of the great work above mentioned was in print.—S. B.

I procured during the summer of 1905 in the Kolyma's delta (between  $69^{\circ}$ – $69\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N.) 27 specimens of this bird and carefully compared them with more than 150 specimens from other localities, chiefly in the St. Petersburg Academical Museum, and came to the conclusion, that there are three fairly distinguishable subspecies or geographical forms.

1. Small pale Caspian form, *C. succica pallidogularis* Zarudn. (= *C. discessa* Madar.). Paler than typical form, especially the blue of the throat in the males very pale, wing in ♂ about 69–71 mm., exceptionally larger, but only 1 spec. out of 16 ♂♂ examined had it 73.5 mm., long; tarsus 26–28.

This form breeds in southeastern Russia from (including) Khar'kov Governm., where it meets however the typical form, through Caucasus and Transcaucasia and Transcaspiian Province on one side and lower Ural and part of Kirghiz Steppe on the other as far east as Zaissansk in N. E. part of Russian Turkestan (about  $47^{\circ}$  N.,  $85^{\circ}$  E. fr. Greenw.). Seasonal migrations of this form are quite limited.

2. Typical European and West-Siberian form, *C. succica* (L.) typ. Darker and larger than Caspian form, wing of ♂♂ normally 72–74 mm., rarely smaller, down to 70 mm., and only in 2 specimens among 50 males examined larger—up to 77 mm.; tarsus 26.5–27, only in 2 specimens (others, not those just mentioned) among fifty longer—up to 28 mm. Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards up to Yenesei, and much further south than generally supposed: down to  $50^{\circ}$  N. in Central Russia, as well as in Russian Turkestan (higher up hills, than *C. pallidogularis*), Yarkand and even Tibet. Winters in Africa and India.

3. Large, East Siberian form, *C. succica robusta* Buturl. It is just a shade darker than the typical form, especially the rufous spot on the throat of males is darker, more rusty-chestnut tinged (but this color difference observable only in comparing series of skins). Wing of males about 74–78 mm. long, very rarely (in 4 specimens among forty) less, down to 72 mm. Tarsus 27.5–28.5 mm. long (only 1 specim. among 40 examined—and this single bird not one of four small-winged birds just mentioned—had tarsus shorter: 26.5 mm.). Breeds from upper (eastern) parts of Lower Tunguska valley and Monjero (*i. e.*, about from  $100^{\circ}$  E.

fr. Greenw.) eastwards, including Chukchi land and Anadyr River (and evidently Alaska), wintering in China.

WESENBERG, ESTHONIA,  
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## THE GENERIC NAMES *MYCTERIA* AND *TANTALUS* OF LINNÆUS, 1758.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

THE genera *Mycteria* and *Tantalus* of Linnæus, as originally founded (Syst. Nat., ed. X, 1758, p. 140), were both monotypic, *Mycteria* having the single species *M. americana*, and *Tantalus* the single species *T. loculator*. *Mycteria* (No. 74) has precedence, standing above *Tantalus* (No. 75) on the same page. The names *Mycteria americana* and *Tantalus loculator* both unfortunately relate to the same species, as long since pointed out by Lichtenstein, and later by others.

*Mycteria americana* Linn. has for its sole basis Maregrave's *Jabiru-guacu*, which Lichtenstein states (Abhandl. Berlin Akad. Wiss., Phys. Kl., 1816-1817 [1819], p. 163), on the basis of the original manuscript and drawings, "ist *Tantalus Loculator*, den die Figur auf p. 200 vorstellt." *Tantalus loculator* is based on the Wood Pelican (*Pelecanus sylvestris* on the plate) of Catesby's 'Carolina.' As explained by Lichtenstein, and as is evident on inspection, Maregrave's figures on pages 200 and 201 of his 'Historiæ rerum Naturalium Brasilæ' are transposed, so that his figure of the Jabiru is placed on p. 201, in the text relating to the Jabiru-guacu, and the figure of the latter in the text relating to the Jabiru. Linnæus makes no reference to the Jabiru, which Lichtenstein here (*l. c.*) named *Ciconia mycteria*, its first tenable systematic designation. Linnæus was thus misled into identifying the figure of the Jabiru as that of the Jabiru-guacu, he evidently basing his generic diagnosis on the wrongly placed figure of the Jabiru and his specific diagnosis on the description of the Jabiru-guacu, which is the Wood Ibis, his *Tantalus loculator*.